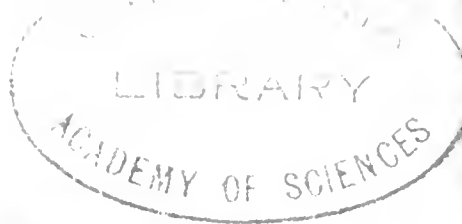


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THE

MONTHLY



GULL

BULLETIN

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JANUARY (9th ANNUAL) MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 14th inst., at eight o'clock, in the Assembly Hall of the Public Library, corner McAllister and Larkin Sts. Take elevator to third floor. Car lines No. 5 or No. 19.

Annual reports will be presented and officers and directors elected for the coming year.

The speaker of the evening will be Dr. Harold C. Bryant, Past Honorary President of the Association, Economic Ornithologist of the Fish and Game Commission, and Conductor of the University Extension Courses in Bird Study, etc. Dr. Bryant will discuss a subject of the highest interest to all bird-lovers, sportsmen and scientists, namely, "The Introduction of Exotic Species of Birds," with especial reference to the situation in the State of California. Visitors will be made welcome.

* * *

JANUARY FIELD TRIP will be the usual annual visit to the wild water fowl sanctuary at Lake Merritt, Oakland, and will be taken on Sunday, January 17th.

San Francisco members will take Key Route boat at 9:00 a. m., and the Grand Avenue car on 22d St. train at the mole, leaving the car at Grand Ave. and Perkins St., where the party will form at 9:45 a. m. and proceed to the enclosure on the near-by lake shore, to witness the feeding of the wild fowl at 10:00 a. m.

East Bay members will transfer from any Traction main line to Grand Ave. or Lake Shore Ave. cars, which will take them to the above mentioned point.

Some incidental land birds are always to be observed in the vicinity, but the object of the trip will be the study of the water fowl, of which intimate views are readily obtained.

* * *

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DECEMBER MEETING: The one hundred-seventh regular meeting of the Association was held on December 10th, in the Assembly Hall of the San Francisco Public Library, with President Kibbe in the chair; Mrs. Kibbe, Acting Secretary; sixteen members and eighteen guests present, seven of the latter being a delegation from the Noblesse Oblige Junior Audubon Club of Cabrillo School.

Mr. Carriger, of the Cooper Ornithological Club called the attention of the meeting to the activities of certain county organizations in securing the slaughter of hawks and owls, supposed to be destructive to game birds, and to what seems to be a definite movement toward the offering of bounties for such work. Mr. Carriger expressed the opinion that the Association and the Cooper Club should do everything in their power to prevent the placing of

such a measure on our statute books. Dr. Grinnell deplored the mistaken viewpoint which prompted such proposals. Mr. Lastreto spoke in deprecation of any such proposition and on his motion, seconded by Mr. Parry, it was resolved that the President appoint a committee of two to bring the matter to the attention of the Cooper Club and to invite cooperation with the Association in combatting any such measure. Mr. Smith suggested the importance of precise information and the advisability of approaching the problem in an educational way.

The feature of the evening consisted of an address by Dr. Joseph Grinnell, Past Honorary President of the Association and Director of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, on the subject of "Field Identification of Birds," with especial reference to related species which closely resemble each other. Dr. Grinnell opened his talk with a discussion of general characteristics of birds as observable in the field, passing from these to a discussion of critical and diagnostic field marks, in the cases of various birds which often present difficulties to the casual observer.

The speaker took up the exceedingly puzzling *Empidonax* group of little flycatchers, giving distinctive features of each of the five species known in California. We of the San Francisco Bay Region may congratulate ourselves in that when we see and hear our particular familiar species, we can say "western flycatcher" and dismiss the subject until we go up into the foothills or mountains in the summer, or south of the Tehachapi. When we stray that far from home, we had better stop short at the generic name, unless we have drilled ourselves thoroughly in the details of Dr. Grinnell's explanation.

Dr. Grinnell offered a suggestion which we may well bear in mind in the winter time, when we come upon some white-crowns which will not sing for us. The mandibles of the Nuttall sparrow are a waxy yellow in color, while those of the intermediate sparrow are orange brown.

The lecture was illustrated by numerous specimens, and Dr. Grinnell graciously submitted to frequent questions, which attested the interest inspired by his treatment of the subject, and the meeting adjourned with expressions of appreciation and the thanks of those in attendance.



BLACK SEA BRANT

Mr. William Pursell, member of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, visited Point Bonita on Sunday, January 3d, and reports that he found a black sea brant there. This is a bird which rarely occurs away from the ocean and which has not been encountered on any of the field trips of the Association.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

In summarizing for our members the occurrences for the year just concluded, 1925, the ninth of our Association's existence, your president is struck by its similarity to its immediate predecessor. Our schedule for meetings has been adhered to, with the exception of the unavoidable postponement imposed by the diamond jubilee festivities. The outing committee will report in detail as to the field trips, which have been popular and fruitful. THE GULL has appeared regularly.

Thanks to the interest shown by various members, our membership roll has been maintained in numbers, although there still exists the desirability of a somewhat larger membership, in order that we may carry on more actively in the solution of the problems that are constantly being presented to our attention.

Your officers have kept in close touch with developments in the matter of the Game Refuge Bill, which failed of final passage as hoped for during the last session of Congress, but the subject has been under discussion and we are again in the position of watchful waiting, confident of the ultimate success of the movement and of the competence and interest of those having immediate charge of its advocacy. The recodification of Lower Klamath Lake has been delayed by persistent opposition of a small group interested in real estate promotions, but this obstacle will be surmounted ere long.

We are again in the throes of amateur tinkering with the balance of nature, which has chosen for its field the matter of elimination of predatory species, without any assurance that those who engage in the process of elimination will be able to make intelligent distinction between harmful and beneficial birds.

A notable characteristic of the inhabitants of these United States is their desultory interest in conservative measures, while there is anything left to conserve. We are so impressed with our own ingenuity in devising substitutes that we view the progressive diminution of resources with something akin to indifference, for when one thing is gone, we rely upon our ability to find something just as good to take its place. The question of the introduction of exotic species to take the place of those which we have thoughtlessly slaughtered is interesting people in many parts of the country, but whatever success attends such efforts, it will still be incumbent upon such associations as ours to plead for the preservation of our native species, and to do what we can to safeguard the remnants, and to this end, your officers will put forth their best efforts.

But, in all questions that come before the Association, your officers alone can accomplish but little without the hearty co-operation of the membership. They are your eyes and ears, perhaps, but the actual, vital work must depend upon your willing, interested, hands and minds. Let us make the coming year notable for achievement, for success!

A. S. KIBBE.



ANOTHER MASSACHUSETTS BIRD SANCTUARY

Word comes from Plymouth, Mass., that Mr. Charles A. Purinton, of Marblehead, has made a gift to the Federation of Bird Clubs of New England, of a strip of land known as Plymouth Beach, extending two miles out from shore, as a breeding sanctuary and resting place for water fowl and shore birds. The area will be posted against hunters, and guarded during the breeding season, but otherwise open to the public.



PERSONAL NOTES

Dr. and Mrs. Casey A. Wood have been spending the winter at Kandy, Ceylon, in further pursuance of a fascinating program of nature study, which has carried them through the West Indies, British Guiana, Australia, New Zealand and the Fiji Islands, and now to far away Ceylon. Our members have had the pleasure of listening to Dr. Wood's interesting notes upon the West Indies and British Guiana, and of hearing him describe his experiences in Fiji, and later on there will doubtless be other notes to enjoy, for he states, in commenting upon his present location, "of all the countries that I have so far visited, I find none more beautiful or that affords greater facilities for this pursuit of mine than the island of Ceylon. The birds are sufficiently numerous, so tame and easy of access, that a study of their visual habits is not difficult."

THE GULL

Our fellow member, Mrs. Ynes Mexia, has been pursuing her course of botanical exploration, in the vicinity, first, of Mazatlan, Mexico, and latterly particulars have been received of a trip eastwardly from that town, first by "camion", into which freight and passengers are promiscuously bundled up to capacity, and later by mule-back along trails which led her to the divide in the Sierra Madre whence one would find their way down into the state of Durango. While botanizing along the crest, Mrs. Mexia met with an accident which resulted in a left hand so wounded that she was obliged to come down to civilization for surgical treatment. She has since visited Mexico City and ere now is probably on her way home, via El Paso and San Diego.

* * *

DECEMBER FIELD TRIP was taken on Sunday, December 13th, to Golden Gate Park. The weather was fine, albeit the wind blew rather steadily, and the land birds were not disposed to show themselves, although we were able to observe those that we did encounter, under favorable circumstances. The usual course was followed, via the two northerly of the Chain Lakes, the buffalo paddock, Spreckels Lake, where lunch was eaten, Lloyd and Stow Lakes. The party broke up at the easterly end of Stow Lake, and some of the party proceeded to the Academy of Sciences for the lecture.

The most notable feature of the day was furnished by the ring-necked ducks, of which there was a goodly flock on the northerly Chain Lake, while some females on Lloyd Lake disported themselves at close range for as long as desired.

The monarch butterflies were again found swarming in the same eucalyptus trees in which we found them in December, 1923, just west of the boat house at Stow Lake.

Birds encountered were: Eared and pied-billed grebes, glaucous-winged, western and California gulls; Bonaparte gulls along the Key fill; mallard, baldpate, canvas-back, scaup and ring-necked ducks; surf scoter on the bay; ruddy duck and coots; kildeer, California quail, sparrow hawk, red-shafted flicker, Anna hummer and black phoebe; Brewer blackbirds were seen from the train; Nuttall sparrow, junco, song and fox sparrows; San Francisco towhee, Audubon warbler, Pacific yellow throat, and Vigors wren; chickadee, bush-tit and ruby-crowned kinglet. Thirty-two species.

Members in attendance were: Mesdemoiselles Ayer, Cockefair, Cohen, Crum and Pettit; Mesdames Hall, Kibbe and Parry; Messrs. Kibbe and Parry. As guests, Miss Rinehart, Mrs. Brown, Messrs. Pursell, Spencer and Dr. Goodman joined us at Lloyd Lake. Six misses from the Girls High School came with Miss Pettit and two girls and seven boys, members of the Noblesse Oblige Junior Audubon Club of Cabrillo School, accompanied the party. Scoutmaster J. H. Gibson and two scouts joined us along a portion of the trip. Ten members and twenty-three guests.

A. S. KIBBE.

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

President.....	A. S. Kibbe.....	1534 Grove St., Berkeley.
Recording Secretary.....	Mrs. Carl R. Smith.....	563 42d Ave., San Francisco
Corresponding Secretary.....	C. B. Lastreto.....	260 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer.....	C. R. Thomas.....	1605 Rose St., Berkeley

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